



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

For Immediate Release

January 22, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of an information¹ against Susan Russell, charging her with wire fraud and money laundering for her scheme to defraud her employer, Ophthalmic Associates ("OA"), an ophthalmology practice in Lansdale and Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. According to the charges, between 2004 and 2007, as the business manager for OA, Russell fraudulently inflated her salary by submitting false information to the payroll company that handled OA's payroll. During the fraud period, Russell falsely claimed to work on average between 22 and 32 hours per day, 7 days per week, or approximately 8,000 to 9,000 hours per year. By submitting this false and fraudulent information to the payroll company, Russell caused OA to pay her at least \$783,000 more than she was entitled to.

According to the information, Russell concealed the fraud from her employer by recording her income in numerous employment categories in OA's financial records. She also paid some of the expenses of the company with her personal credit card so that the partners in the practice would not investigate financial shortfalls that, at least in part, she caused by engaging in this fraud scheme. The information further alleges that the defendant engaged in money laundering by using the proceeds of her offense to make substantial tuition payments to Villanova University.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Susan Russell	Doylestown, Pennsylvania	46

If convicted of all charges, Russell faces a maximum penalty of 60 years in prison and at least three to four years in prison under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Louis D. Lappen.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*